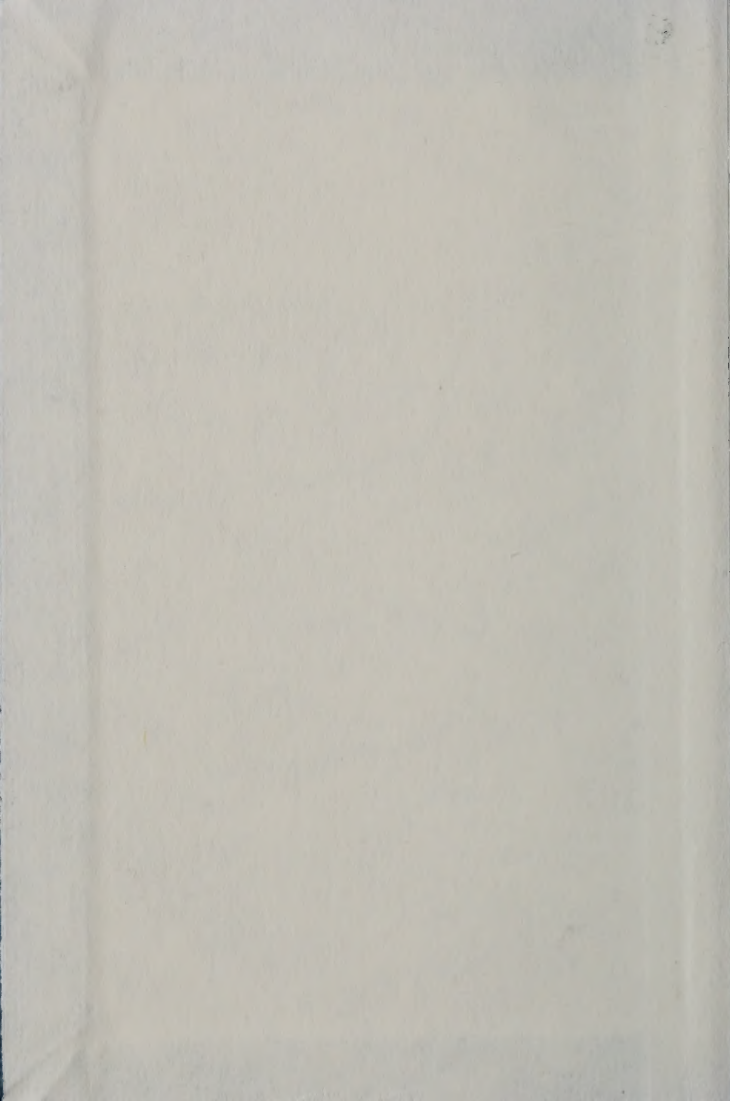


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History of the Poneto
Methodist Church, 1870-1956

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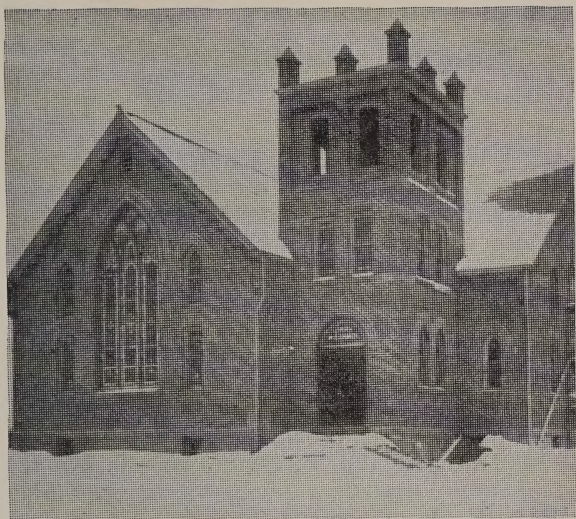
**HISTORY
OF THE
PONETO
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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1870 - 1956

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March 18, 1906

HISTORY OF THE PONETO METHODIST CHURCH

In preparing this history from existing records, we find the first organized Church services were held in the Nottingham township school house, at the town of Worthington later known as Poneto. This being located at the intersection of the four townships.

The first record being the baptism of Charles W. Templin, by sprinkling on Sept. 8, 1872, by Rev. John H. McMahon. J. W. Paschall, presiding Elder, Organized a class at Worthington, Feb. 25, 1878 with ten members becoming a part of the Bluffton Circuit.

The Second Quarterly Conference was held in the same year, on Sept. 2, at Worthington, Charles E. Bacon being the preacher in charge. William Nicely and Isaac Singer were members of this Quarterly Conference.

Church was continued in the Schoolhouse until the erection of the first Church in 1880, at a total cost of \$1200.

The ground and timber for this frame Church was donated by Simeon

Tappy and wife and was located in the corner of the block west of the present Church. Trustees at this time being Simeon Tappy, J. W. Cook and Alexander Lee.

The first Sunday School was organized Oct. 10, 1880, and the first report was made March 19, 1881, with Alexander Lee as first Superintendent.

On Dec. 16, 1881, the Worthington Charge was changed to the Poneto Charge consisting of Bethel, Prairie, Reiffsburg and Poneto. The charter members were Alexander Lee and wife, Isaac Singer and wife, Luther Collins and wife, William Markley and wife, J. W. Cook, Mary Cooper, and Simeon Tappy and wife.

The first parsonage of this charge was purchased Oct. 24, 1889, from P. M. Simons and Ora Simons, his wife. The trustees of the church were B. W. Shoch, Z. T. Feters and R. S. Hughes.

During the early history great interest was shown, and under the ministry of J. M. Haines at Poneto there were fifty conversions and fifty-seven accessions. Later E. J. Magor held a protracted meeting of 16 weeks, with 38 conversions or more. He received his

education in England, and while on the charge received his Wife's certificate of membership from her home Church Truos, England.

In the second year of David Wells ministry (1901) there was an ingathering of over one hundred souls.

Now the charge had progressed to a position where they purchased ground for a new church from B. F. Starr and his wife Sabina at the cost of \$250. The Church was erected of brick structure in 1905, with many members donating their time and money at a total cost of \$3657.17 and was dedicated, March 18, 1906, under the ministry of S. F. Harter. The first Sunday School Superintendent in the new Church was Charles Steube. Following the dedication of the new Church, the old frame Church was purchased and removed by J. P. Lockwood.

In the year of 1915, the Church trustees deeded to the parsonage trustees a lot for the present parsonage. The first occupant of the new parsonage being the Rev. J. R. Stelle and family.

In the time served at Poneto by the Rev. J. M. Stewart and wife, great success was accomplished with over 125 accessions to the church.

In 1924, Rev. John French came to the Poneto Circuit, and during the second year of his ministry, became ill and passed away. The message of comfort was brought by the district Superintendent W. W. Wiant. His final resting place being at Elm Grove Cemetery at Bluffton.

H. E. Forbes, L. C. Wisner and Dewitt Johnson were the ministers during the next six years with Rev. Johnson showing a large increase in membership.

Beginning in 1932, Poneto was blessed with a number of student ministers, some of them developing into outstanding ministers. In later years, one of them Rev. Kenneth Smith is now treasurer of the North Indiana Conference.

Others of outstanding note, are the Rev. James Bean, Paul Stephenson, Clayton Steele and Harold Neel, who is now minister of the First Methodist Church in Muncie, Indiana.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Kenneth Smith and Rev. Homer Studabaker, Church redecorations were accomplished.

We are supplied with young ministers again until Rev. F. F. Handley came

in 1951. He was with us for two months, when he passed away as the result of an automobile accident.

In 1952 Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Thorne came to us and they were very popular with the young people. Rev. Thorne's health failed and he was forced to retire to his home in Lynn, Indiana.

We are now under the able leadership of the Rev. Guy Johnson who has been with us for three years and we have again completed extensive redecoration.

Committee



May 8, 1956

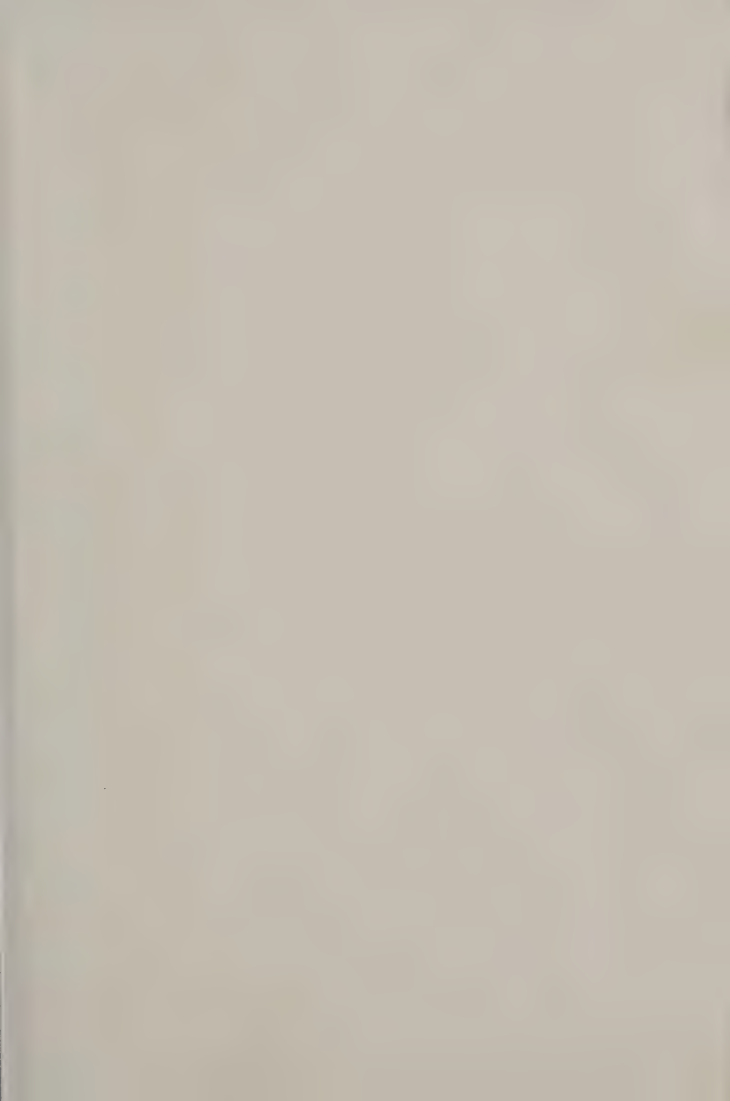
MINISTERS

H. C. Galbraith	-----	1870
J. L. Ramsey	-----	1871
J. H. McMahon	-----	1872-1873
A. Douglas	-----	1874
J. L. Ramsey	-----	1875
J. W. Paschall	-----	1876-1877
T. W. Lincoln	-----	1878
H. C. Myers	-----	1879-1880
J. N. Rhodes	-----	1881
Henry Bridges	-----	1882-1883
J. B. Cook	-----	1884-1885
B. S. Hollopeter	-----	1886-1887-1888
J. M. Haines	-----	1889-1890
J. W. Walters	-----	1891
R. H. Dempsey	-----	1892-1893
J. L. Foster	-----	1894-1895
E. J. Magor	-----	1896-1897-1898-1899
David Wells	-----	1900-1901-1902
Ralph Jones	-----	1903-1904
S. F. Harter	-----	1905-1906-1907
J. H. McNary	-----	1908
B. F. Hornaday	-----	1909-1910
Henry Lacey	-----	1911-1912
D. A. J. Brown	-----	1913
J. R. Stelle	-----	1914-1915

L. G. Carnes	-----	1916-1917
E. E. Wright	-----	1918
E. M. Foster	-----	1919
J. M. Stewart	-----	1920-1921-1922
J. K. Wyant	-----	1923
J. H. French	-----	1924-1925
H. E. Forbes	-----	1926-1927
L. C. Wisner	-----	1928-1929-1930
Dewitt Johnson	-----	1931-1932
James McKnight	-----	1932
James Bean	-----	1933
H. D. Neel	-----	1934-1935
Kenneth Smith	-----	1936-1937
Paul Stephenson	-----	1938-1939
Clayton Steele	-----	1940-1941-1942
R. L. O'Dell	-----	1943-1944-1945
James Leist	-----	1945
Edward Burkhalter	-----	1945
Ferris Woodruff	-----	1946
Tom Capin	-----	1946
John W. Omerod	-----	1947
Homer Studabaker	-----	1948
Bryce Fenig	-----	1949
Max M. Morgan	-----	1949-1950-1951
F. T. Handley	-----	1951
Wilbur Thorne	-----	1952
Guy Johnson	---	1953-1954-1955-1956

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Alexander Lee	1883-84
Mrs. Henrietta Tappy	1885-89
Alexander Lee	1890-93
Charles Steube	1894-96
Lewis Cobbum	1897-99
Charles Stuebe	1900-02
George Gavin	1903-04
Charles Stuebe	1905-06
Alexander Lee	1907-10
Lewis Cobbum	1911-15
H. C. Melick	1916
Fred Cobbum	1917-27
Edward Walker	1928-
Fred Cobbum	1929
Dayton Musselman	1930
Edward Walker	1931
Paul Oman	1932-39
James Liest	1940-46
Mark Athan	1947-51
Robert Williams	1952-53
Carl Brinneman	1954-55
La Roy Cobbum	1956





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